

## Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 230720 TOSEC 270279

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT JACK ANDERSON AND LES WHITTEN COLUMN WASHINGTON POST FRIDAY SEPT. 17 HEADED, "SAUDIES SUSPECT AN IRAN-U.S. PLOT."

2. IN BLUNT, BLISTERING LANGUAGE, SAUDI ARABIAN OFFICIALS HAVE ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF BUILDING UP THE SHAH OF IRAN FOR AN ARMED INVASION OF ARABIAN OIL FIELDS.

3. THE RESPECTED SAUDI OIL MINISTER, AHMED ZAKI YAMANI, WARNED THAT THE SHAH WAS "HIGHLY UNSTABLE MEN-TALLY." IF THE U.S. AUTHORITIES FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THIS, ADDED YAMANI, THEY MUST BE LOSING THEIR "POWERS OF OBSERVATION."

4. THE SAUDIS CONFIDED THEIR FEARS LAST YEAR TO JAMES E. AKINS, THEN THE U.S. AMBASSADOR, WHO RELAYED THE MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON IN STARTLING SECRET LETTERS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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MEMOS.

5. ONE "MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE" DATED AUG. 28, 1975,

DESCRIBES THE EXPLOSIVE CONVERSATION WITH YAMANI. THE OIL MINISTER, ACCORDING TO THE SECRET MEMO, SAID "THE CONCLUSION THE SAUDIS WERE REACHING WAS THAT WE HAD AN AGREEMENT WITH IRAN TO LET IT TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE ARABIAN LITTORAL OF THE PERSIAN GULF."

6. YAMANI BELIEVED THE UNITED STATES "HAD URGED THE SHAH TO MAKE PEACE WITH IRAQ." AKINS ADDED, "SO IRAN WOULD HAVE A FREER HAND IN THE LOWER GULF."

7. THE SAUDI OIL MINISTER WAS CONVINCED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS DELIBERATELY BOLSTERING THE SHAH'S MILITARY POWER AND THAT "IRAN'S EXTRAORDINARY MILITARY BUILDUP WAS QUITE CLEARLY AIMED AT OCCUPYING THE ARAB STATES ACROSS THE GULF, THE EMIRATES, QATAR, BAHRAIN, KUWAIT AND EVEN SAUDI ARABIA ITSELF."

8. THE SAUDIS HAD BECOME PERSUADED, AKINS NOTED, THAT "IN THE NEXT ARAB-ISRAELI WAR, ISRAEL ... WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO OCCUPY TOBUK IN NORTHERN SAUDI ARABIA, AND IRAN WOULD BE TOLD TO OCCUPY THE ARABIAN LITTORAL."

9. IF SUCH A SITUATION DEVLOPED, VAMANI WARNED AKINS: "IRAQ WOULD BE INVOLVED IMMEDIATELY AND SO WOULD BE THE SOVIET UNION. BUT IF IRAN SHOULD SUCCEED IN OCCUPYING PART OF THE ARABIAN COAST, IT WOULD FIND ONLY SMOKING RUINS, AND THE WESTERN OIL CONSUMERS WOULD FACE CATASTROPHE."

10. AKINS RESPONDED, ACCORDING TO HIS SECRET MEMO, THAT "SUCH A PLAN WOULD BE SHEER MADNESS." YAMANI AGREED THAT AKINS "WAS QUITE RIGHT" BUT ADDED: "WE THINK YOU MAY HAVE GONE MAD." END TEXT. ROBINSON

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